

REMARKS

By the *Office Action* of 24 September 2003, Paper No. 16, Claims 8, 10-11 and 14-15 are pending in the Application, and all rejected. By the present *Response and Amendment*, the Applicant amends Claim 8, and presents new Claims 16-19.

No new matter is believed introduced by the present *Response and Amendment*. It is respectfully submitted that the present Application is in condition for allowance for the following reasons.

1. Japanese Publication No. 08-168541

Japanese Publication No. 08-168541 discloses in Fig. 1 a club head that has an opening 12 to open the hollow structure of the club, which is thus open to the environment. Yet, Fig. 5 of the Japanese Publication No. 08-168541 appears to shows an enclosed hollow cavity 7a not open to the environment.

However, Japanese Publication No. 08-168541 does not disclose a golf club head having the *cavity back structure*, as recited in the only independent Claim of the application, Claim 8, as amended. It is thus respectfully submitted that independent Claim 8, and the dependant Claims therefrom, recite a club having novel and non-obvious features over the club of Japanese Publication No. 08-168541.

2. Rejection Of The Claims

Claims 8, 10-11 and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Publication No. 08-168541. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, as Japanese Publication No. 08-168541 neither teaches nor suggests the "cavity back structure" of the present invention. The rear portions 6 and 6a of Figs. 1-5 of Japanese Publication No. 08-168541 are not "cavity back structures" as disclosed and claimed in the present application.

The present invention has a cavity back structure as best shown in Fig. 2 (reproduced below), illustrating the fully enclosed space 12. The effective deflection length L can be increased by providing both the cavity back structure and the space 12 with the head recited in Claim 8.

As further shown in Fig. 2 below, as recited in amended Claim 8, the cavity back structure of the rear-part component includes a thick portion and a recess portion of the sole part, wherein the recess portion is surrounded by the thick portion at a rear surface of the rear part component. This is neither taught nor suggested in Japanese Publication No. 08-168541.

Japanese Publication No. 08-168541 discloses a rear portion 6, 6a, unlike that now claimed in the present application, and there is no teaching, suggestion or motivation in Japanese Publication No. 08-168541 to provide any other type of rear portion, as distinguishable from the "cavity back structure" of the present invention.

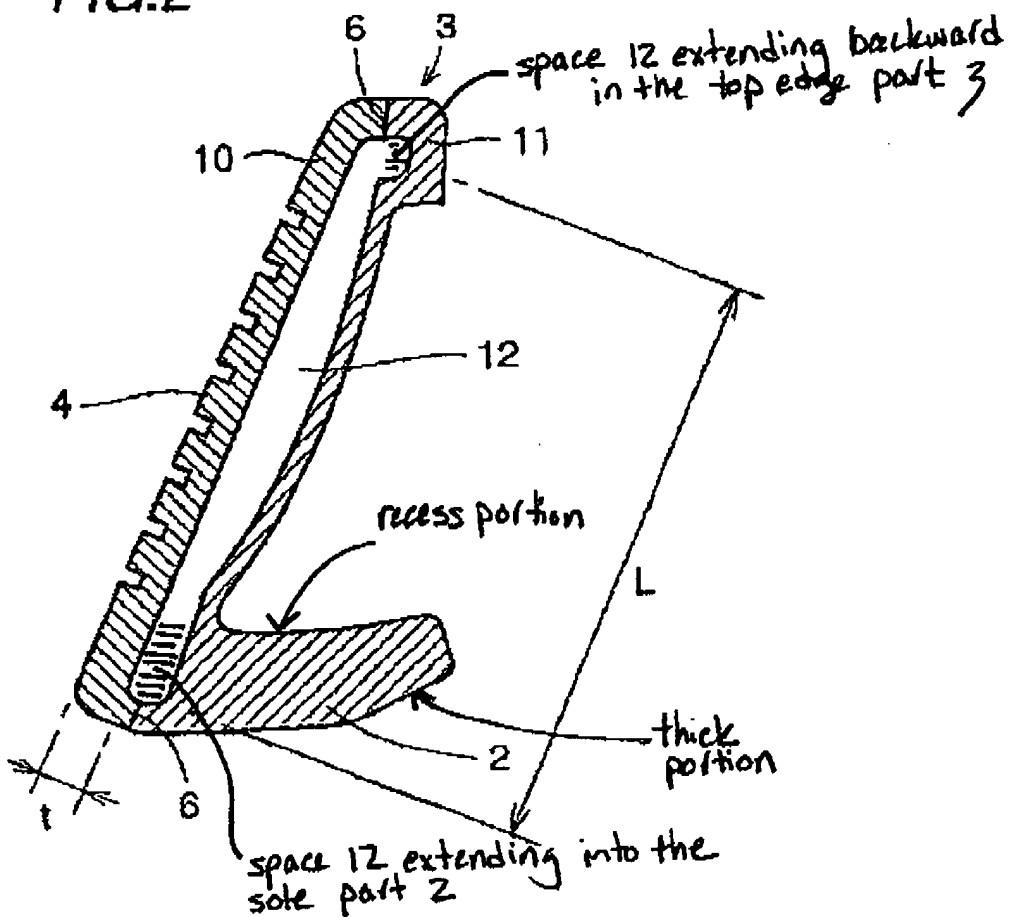
Claim 8 of the present application recites this novel and non-obvious cavity back structure that is not found in Japanese Publication No. 08-168541. The amendment to Claim 8 has antecedent basis to the application as originally filed, both in Fig. 2 and in the *Specification, Page 5, Lines 15-18*.

Claim 11 is further distinguishable from Japanese Publication No. 08-168541, as Claim 11 further recites that the "cavity back structure" incorporates "a concave part provided on its center," this too neither taught nor suggested in Japanese Publication No. 08-168541.

New Claim 16 is similarly novel and non-obvious over Japanese Publication No. 08-168541, reciting that the cavity back structure includes "an arcuate portion."

In addition, the space 12 of the present invention can extend into the sole part 2, and can extend backward in the top edge part 3, as shown in Fig. 2. Accordingly, the effective deflection length L can be further increased. New Claims 17-19 recite these embodiments of the space 12.

FIG.2



Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Publication No. 08-168541 in view of Gutowski. This ground of rejection is similarly traversed, as put forth above.

3. Fees

Presently, the Application has twenty or less total Claims, and three or less independent Claims. Thus, it is believed no additional Claim fees are due.

Further, this *Response and Amendment* is being filed within six months of the *Office Action*, and more specifically within three months. Thus, it is believed no Extension of Time fees are due.

Nonetheless, authorization to charge deposit account No. 20-1507 is given herein should any fees be due.

CONCLUSION

By the present *Response and Amendment*, the Application has been in placed in full condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests early and favorable action. Should the Examiner have any further questions or reservations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned Attorney at 404.885.2773.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is submitted via facsimile to the central fax number for the United States Patent and Trademark Office, 703 872 9306

Pamela J. Garhardt

Name of Applicant/Assignee, or
Registered Representative

Pamela J. Garhardt

Signature

16 December 2003

Date

Respectfully submitted,


Ryan Schneider
Registration No. 45,083

TROUTMAN SANDERS, LLP
Bank of America Plaza
600 Peachtree Street, Suite 5200
Atlanta, Georgia 30308-2216
Tel. No.: 404.885.2773
Fax No.: 404.962.6849